

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: B-9
(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: B-9)
34-40 Grand Street
Jersey City
Hudson County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-71-K

HAER
NJ
9-JERC1,
18K-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. NJ-71-K

Location: 34-40 Grand Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Significance: B-9, and an earlier building on part of the same site, housed facilities for all Jersey City plant glycerine recovery c1891-1986. Although not an individually significant structure, B-9 was significant as an important component of the Colgate plant.

Description: B-9 was a 78-by-85-foot brick building shell enclosing catwalks, pipes, tanks and equipment. The steel-frame structure had two adjoining gabled sections, each topped with a variety of small roof structures over upper interior equipment levels. Both sections included a basement with brick and concrete piers, and steel platform supports. Each brick shell section had a similar appearance: brick-clad, gabled facades with corbelling in the gable apices and wired glass industrial metal sash windows. Although arranged in conventional story heights, the facades had no relationship to the four principal interior operating levels (SOUTH ELEVATION; HAER No. NJ-71, EAST HALF OF B BLOCK, VIEW EAST).

The 35-foot-wide western facade had two stories, and four bays delineated by window piers. The ground floor was infilled and altered by 1988: the westernmost bay was bricked-in, the next bay (west to east) had a double pedestrian door, the third and fourth bays had metal-sash wire-glass windows with I-beam lintels and a continuous concrete sill pairing these two end bays. The second floor bays had metal-sash wire-glass windows with louvers, concrete sills separated by the vertical piers, and corbelled brick lintel courses. Pier lengths delineating the bays varied; only the end and third piers stretch the entire height of the buildings. The apex of the gable was ornamented with corbelling and bluestone coping. The west corner pier was slightly buttressed at the top to accommodate a steam pipe bridge from the Boiler House (HAER No. NJ-71-T; see SOUTH ELEVATION and HAER No. NJ-71, EAST HALF OF B BLOCK, VIEW EAST).

The 43-foot-wide, three-story eastern facade of B-9 was five bays wide. Each bay had a wired-glass steel-sash window except for the first floor, which had obscure glass-block infill in the second, third and fifth bays (west-east) and a double pedestrian door in the fourth bay. The gable ornamentation nearly matched that of the eastern section, with four corbels instead of three. The top floor of windows has a smaller corbelled lintel course as well. All windows had steel lintels in 1988.

* Capitalized references are photographs included with this documentation, or with other documentation packages for HAER No. NJ-71 and associated structures.

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: B-9
(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: B-9)
HAER No. NJ-71-K (Page 2)

The interior of B-9 had an extremely complex arrangement of steel framing, steel-grate- and concrete-floored platforms and partial floors, catwalks, ladders, piping, and glycerine recovery equipment which defies brief description (see interior photographs).

History: Colgate & Company purchased the site of B-9 between 1863 and 1875. An 1872 purchase included a three-story brick tenement where the later western section of B-9 was built. The company began glycerine in the tenement in 1891. Increased production of soap, and more extensive and sophisticated glycerine recovery equipment, required an expansion of the facility by 1905. In that year, Colgate & Company built the western section of B-9 over and around the tenement, and then tore down the older structure, to minimize interruption of operations. The eastern section was built in 1907. William P. Field, C.E., designed both brick shells. After numerous structural and equipment alterations, B-9 was demolished in 1989.

Sources:

Plans and Drawings

Colgate-Palmolive Company retains linen or blueprint copies of most, though not necessarily all, plans and drawings made for B-9. Those listed below pertain to the structure and major equipment elements; there are several hundred other drawings pertaining to the complex mechanical and piping arrangements in the structure. As of late 1989, these documents are maintained by the engineering department in the plant's L Block (HAER No. NJ-71-SS). Future researchers should contact the company's Office of Corporate Communications at 300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, for access.

Field, William P., C.E., [Jersey City, N.J.]

1904 Proposed Building 'L.' Colgate & Company, Jersey City, N.J.
(six drawings)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Proposed Building 'L' | 4. South Elevation |
| 2. Details of Columns | 5. West Elevation |
| 3. Detail of Lantern | 6. Detail of Doors |

1906-7 Proposed Extension Building 'L.' Colgate & Company, Jersey City, N.J. (11 drawings)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Foundation Plan | 6. Section of Short Truss and Mezzanine Floor |
| 2. Front Elevation | |
| 2a. Front Elevation and Section | 7. Section of Long Truss |
| 3. Rear Elevation | 9. Detail of Long Truss |
| 5. Diagrams | 10. Roof Plan |
| [?]. Proposed Tank Trestle | 11. Detail and Diagram of Truss Floor |

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: B-9
(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: B-9)
HAER No. NJ-71-K (Page 3)

- 1909 Reinforcement Filter Press Floor, Building 'L.' Colgate &
Company, Jersey City, N.J. (3 drawings, same title)

Colgate-Palmolive Company

- 1956 Equipment Layout, B-9 (2 drawings)
Third Floor. Dwg. No. 1-0245.
Roof Plan. Dwg. No. 1-0249
- 1962 Remove Wooden Shed B-9 Building (7 drawings)
Existing Grand Street Elevation. Dwg. No. 2-4809.
New Grand Street Platform. Dwg. No. 2-4810.
Details for New Platform (2 dwgs). Nos. 2-4811 & 2-4812.
New Stairway/B-9 (Glycerine House). Dwg. No. 2-4813.
Plan of Area Beneath Platform. Dwg. No. 2-4819.
Elevation of Area Beneath Platform. Dwg. No. 2-4820.
- 1979 Equipment Layout, B-9-1 (Field Update). Drawing No. 2-8181.

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Colgate-Palmolive Company

- 1939 Improvements in Distillation of Glycerine. U.S. Patent No.
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City, NJ.
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Crooker, H.N.

- 1931 Glycerine Department. The Pulse III,7: 5-6.

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COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: B-9
 (Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: B-9)
 HAER No. NJ-71-K (Page 4)

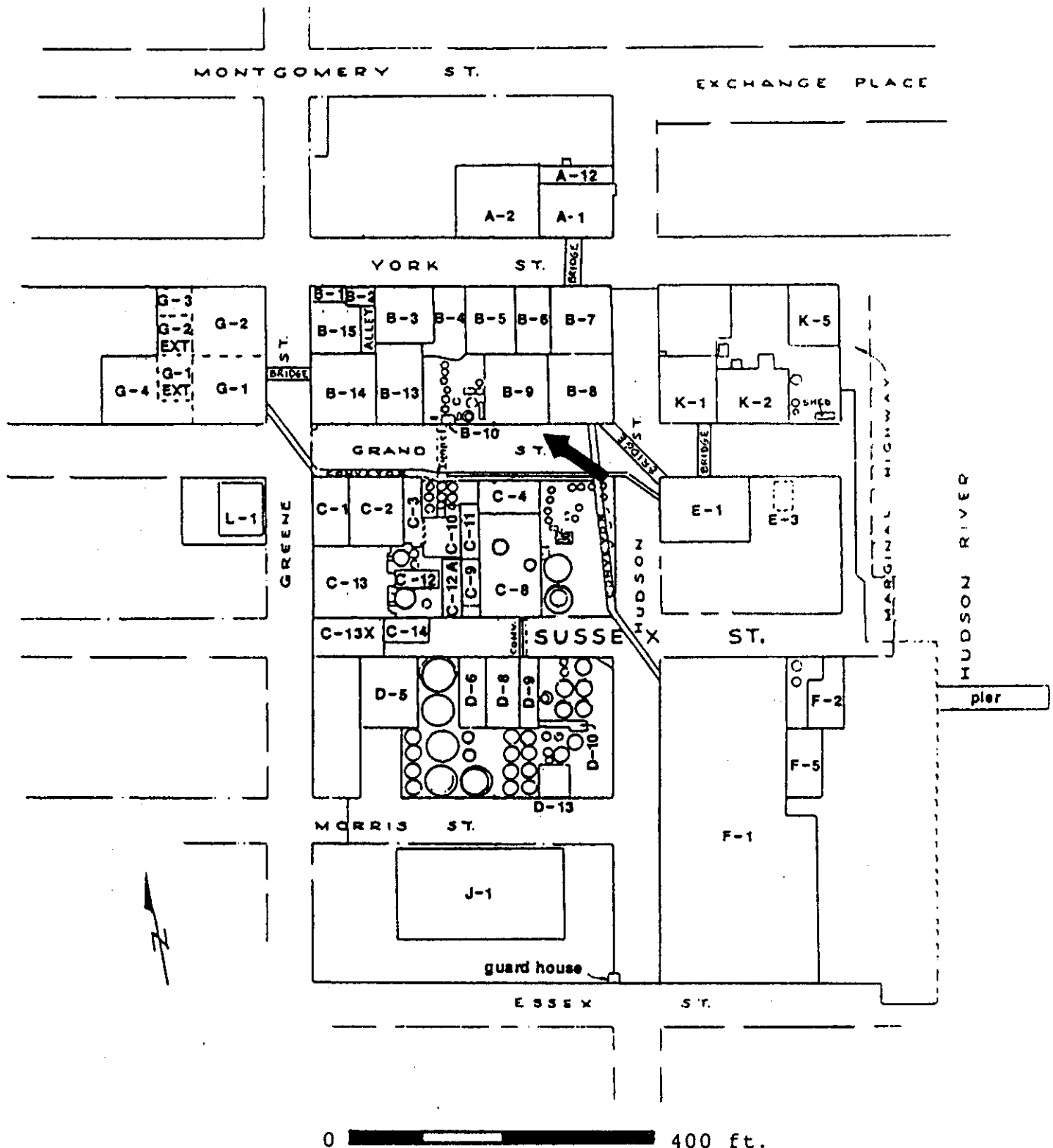


Figure 1. LOCATION OF B-9 AT COLGATE JERSEY CITY PLANT